

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by Colonel Carlson
of the Joint Staff

DATE: August 3, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Commander Howe
Colonel Carlson
Colonel Everhard

The following are excerpts from the August 3, 1972 briefing:

Colonel Carlson: The weather continues to be bad.

Dr. Kissinger: It is a good thing, this is the dry season. I don't want you to come crying to us to lift restraints on the bombing. For policy reasons we may have to stop it for 3 or 4 days and that is when it always seems to the Defense Department that the world has come to an end.

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Colonel Carlson: The Marines are moving slowly towards the Citadel (Quang Tri) and taking light casualties.

Dr. Kissinger: What was last week's casualty count? I believe the overall total was high. Has anybody talked to General Weyant. (To General Haig, I want you to call Admiral Moorer. I can't see having those elite units wasted taking the Citadel when we know that an attack is coming.

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Dr. Kissinger: How are they doing on Route 13?

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Colonel Carlson: They are working on it but no convoys have been proceeding as yet.

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Dr. Kissinger: It looks to me as you are not hitting any fixed targets (referring to strikes against the North).

Colonel Carlson: That is correct. The only hits were down here (pointing to southern area of North Vietnam on map).

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Dr. Kissinger: Do you think the decrease in SAM fightings is because we are not flying near the SAM sites or because they are out of missiles?

Colonel Carlson: I don't think they are out of missiles.

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